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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - TERRORISM, IRAN, FAMINE IN SAHEL

PARIS - PARIS - AUGUST 1, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [11.](#) TERRORISM
- [12.](#) IRAN
- [13.](#) FAMINE IN SAHEL

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

IN THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS, SCOTLAND YARD'S ARRESTS FOLLOWING THE LONDON ATTACKS, IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND NIGER'S FAMINE ARE THE MAIN SUBJECTS OF THE WEEKEND AND MONDAY MEDIA.

IRAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WILL RESUME TODAY SOME OF ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IS REPORTED IN ALL NEWSPAPERS. "NUCLEAR: THE IRANIAN BLACKMAIL" HEADLINES RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO WHICH ALSO DEVOTES ITS EDITORIAL TO THE ISSUE (SEE PART C).

FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH WAS EXTENSIVELY INTERVIEWED ON FRANCE'S NUMBER ONE PRIVATE RADIO R.T.L. ON SATURDAY, JULY 30TH ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE FRENCH VERSION OF HIS MEMOIRS. SIGNIFICANT EXCERPTS WERE PUBLISHED IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE AS WELL AS IN AP AND AFP WIRES.

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO REPORTS ON THE FACT THAT BUSH MAY MAKE A RECESS APPOINTMENT OF JOHN BOLTON AS US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN: "THIS IS A RISKY BET, JUST AS GEORGE W. BUSH LIKES THEM. THE PRESIDENT COULD IMPOSE (THE APPOINTMENT), BYPASS THE SENATE AND NAME JOHN BOLTON, A HAWK, AS US AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS."

IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "GETTING OUT OF TERRORISM", YVES PITETTE FROM CATHOLIC LA CROIX TREATS BOTH IRA AND ISLAMIC TERRORISM. (SEE PART C)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER DOUSTE-BLAZY VISIT TO AFRICA, ESPECIALLY TO NIGER, IS REPORTED IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS. CATHOLIC LA CROIX REPORTS: "PHILIPPE DOUSTE-BLAZY INSISTED ON STRESSING THAT FRANCE WAS THE 'FIRST CONTRIBUTOR' TO NIGER AND HAD BEEN THE FIRST COUNTRY MOBILIZED TO HELP IT. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT HIDE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S BAD MANAGEMENT OF THE NIGER CRISIS." IN AN OP-ED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIB ATION, LOUIS MICHEL, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR RESEARCH, PENS THAT FAMINE CAN BE OVERCOME. (SEE PART C).

BOTH ECONOMIC DAILIES REPORT ON THE US ECONOMY, WITH THE FOLLOWING HEADLINES "THE AMERICAN ECONOMY REMAINS IN REALLY GOOD SHAPE", "AMERICAN GROWTH STILL AS SOLID AS EVER" FOR ECONOMIC LES ECHOS AND "AMERICAN GROWTH KEEPS UP A HIGH PACE", "THE AMERICAN ECONOMY GIVES AN EXAMPLE" FOR ECONOMIC LA TRIBUNE.

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

"GETTING OUT OF TERRORISM" YVES PITETTE IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (08/01) "THE 'GOOD NEWS', TO USE BENEDICT XVI'S WORD, OF THE IRA'S RENUNCIATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE TAKES PLACE AT THE BEST POSSIBLE TIME. . ONE MUST REMAIN CAUTIOUS BUT A NEW WAY IS OPEN, EVEN IF TIME IS STILL NEEDED TO INSTALL CONFIDENCE. SO THEN, IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET OUT OF TERRORISM. . THE DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION PUT TOGETHER WITH PATIENCE AND FINALLY SUCCESS ARE EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW. THE PERSONAL PATH OF THE AUTHORS OF THE JULY ATTACKS IN LONDON . SHOW THAT THIS CHOICE IS NOT INELUCTABLE. THEIR RADICALIZATION OCCURS IN A PROCESS IN WHICH EXCLUSION AND LONELINESS MAKE THEM RECEPTIVE TO ISLAMIC SERMONS. . OUR SOCIETIES HAVE THE MEANS TO PREVENT THE DRIFT OF THESE OFTEN EDUCATED YOUNG PEOPLE. BUT THIS REQUIRES DIALOGUE, INTEGRATION, AND, WHAT MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT, REFLECTION ON ITSELF - THAT IS TO SAY ON THE SOCIETY ITSELF AND THE VALUE THAT IT GIVES ITSELF. WHEN ONE MEASURES THE TIME AND THE EFFORTS NEEDED TO SIMPLY MAKE POSSIBLE THE RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND CRISIS, ONE CAN IMAGINE THE DIMENSION OF THE CHALLENGE LAID DOWN TO OUR SOCIETIES THAT HAVE BECOME MULTI-CULTURAL."

"IRAN'S CHOICE"

PIERRE ROUSSELIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (08/01) "IN FEBRUARY, PRESIDENT BUSH WAS OFFERING HIS SUPPORT TO THE EUROPEANS AND WAS LIFTING THE FOLLOWING MONTH HIS OPPOSITION TO IRAN'S ADHESION TO THE WTO. AT THAT TIME, EVERYBODY THOUGHT THAT PRAGMATIC RAFSANDJANI WOULD TAKE OVER. AHMADINEJAD'S ELECTION HAS COMFORTED THE NEO-CONSERVATIVES IN WASHINGTON, LED BY VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD, FOR WHOM THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MULLAHS' REGIME ARE A WASTE OF TIME. IRAN STANDS AT THE TIME FOR DECISION. EUROPE STILL OFFERS IT THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENNESS TO THE WORLD, POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, IN EXCHANGE FOR AN UNEQUIVOCAL RENOUNCEMENT OF THE ATOMIC BOMB. IF IRAN REFUSES, IT WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW IRAQ'S PRECEDENT: SECURITY COUNCIL NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE THREAT OF SANCTIONS AND MILITARY INTERVENTION."

FRANK DE BOND IN REGIONAL SUD-OUEST (08/01) "IF, AS IT SAID, THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN WERE TO REOPEN ITS URANIUM CONVERSION FACTORY THIS MORNING, THIS WOULD BE A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY. NOBODY DOUBTS THAT THE GOAL OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC IS TO BE ABLE, ONE DAY, TO MAKE AN ATOMIC WEAPON IN ORDER TO STAND AS THE MASTER IN A STRATEGIC BUT VERY EXPLOSIVE REGION. TODAY, TEHERAN'S DECISION PROVES GEORGE W. BUSH RIGHT. IF IT WERE CARRIED OUT, THE IRANIAN FILE WOULD GO IN FRONT OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE UNITED STATES, WHO WILL NEVER TOLERATE THIS COUNTRY BECOMING A NUCLEAR POWER, WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE MILITARILY TO PREVENT THE UNACCEPTABLE."

"FAMINE CAN BE DEFEATED"

LOUIS MICHEL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIB ATION (08/01) "HUNGER CAN AND MUST BE ERADICATED. TODAY'S SITUATION IS SO SERIOUS THAT WE NEED TO SUPPLY IMMEDIATE FOOD AND HUMANITARIAN AID TO HELP THOSE POPULATION SURVIVE. BUT FOOD AID CANNOT AND MUST NOT BECOME THE EASY RESPONSE THAT HIDES A SHORT TERM VISION OF THE PROBLEM AND A GUILTY NEGLIGENCE FROM THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE DONORS THEMSELVES. WITH GOOD GOVERNING, SUPPORTED BY AN EFFICIENT AID TO DEVELOPMENT AND WITH SOLID STRATEGIES OF FOOD SECURITY IN COUNTRIES MOST TOUCHED BY HUNGER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AND, TO USE A FASHIONABLE SLOGAN, MAKE POVERTY HISTORY."

STAPLETON#